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Dr. White's letter to the officers of the university reads:

It gives Mrs. White and myself much pleasure to be able to transfer to the state university as a Christmas gift, an undivided one-half interest in 1,911 acres of Sewickley coal located near Fairmont, Marion County, W. Va., for the benefit of the geological department of the university. Whatever of success has come to me in science and business has been due in large degree to the training I received at the university, my alma mater, and it gives me much happiness to be one of the first of her sons to recognize this obligation in a substantial manner.

The tract conveyed is, with the exception of a ten-acre tract, all in one solid block, and the Helen's Run branch of the Western Maryland Railway passes directly across the southwestern end of the same at a point from which the coal under the entire tract can be removed, with natural drainage to a shaft sunk along that railway. This Sewickley coal will have an average thickness of six feet, and hence with a liberal allowance for mining waste, the entire tract should yield, in round numbers, about 15,000,000 net tons of coal, or 7,500,000 for the university's portion. With the rapid exhaustion of the coal from the Fairmont region, it is reasonable to expect that within a period of a very few years a lease at not less than 25 cents per ton royalty can readily be obtained on this property, with agreements for increase as the years go by, so that on a graded royalty this tract should finally yield a net return to the university of approximately \$2,000,000. It is doubly pleasing to make this gift to the university during the presidency of Dr. Trotter, under whose able administration such wonderful growth and advancement have been attained.

Trusting that this donation to the university is only the forerunner of others to come from its prosperous graduates, and with best wishes, I remain,

EXPEDITIONS OF THE FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

SOUTH AMERICA will be the field of four out of six scientific research expeditions to be sent out by the Field Museum of Natural History during the next five years. Two of these expeditions will gather geological specimens in the area from Brazil to Patagonia and two, one zoological and one botanical, will study the animal and plant life of Peru.

An archæological expedition will visit the Isthmus of Panama and the State of Columbia, South America, and at the same time an ethnology expedition will go to the Malay Peninsula. All expeditions will be gone by summer and will remain in the field for periods from two to five years.

The department of geology plans to extend its expedition over a period of five years. The first of these will be headed by Dr. Oliver C. Farrington, curator of the department, and will proceed to the gem producing localities of Brazil. One of the objects of this expedition is to secure a full series of minerals associated with the diamond. Two later expeditions under Dr. Farrington's direction will visit the important gold and iron mining districts of Brazil and the silver and copper producing districts of Peru and Bolivia. The latter expedition will also take specimens from the important nitrate and vanadium deposits of Chile.

Specimens of pre-historic vertebrate life will be searched for by the second of the geological expeditions which will visit the Santa Cruz beds of Patagonia, certain areas of the Pampean formation of northern Argentine and some of the cave deposits of Brazil. It is hoped to secure specimens of the great ground sloths, the Pampas horse and other types of vertebrate life of South America. The expedition will be under the direction of Mr. E. S. Riggs, of the department of historical geology.

The zoological and botanical expeditions will work together in the interior of the Sierras of Central Peru and in the region of the sources of the Amazon. The work will take these expeditions from sea level to the highest altitudes where life is found. At times they will penetrate into virtually tropical islands, large areas of land entirely surrounded by snow capped peaks which have developed species of animal and plant life that are found in no other place. Dr. Wilfred Osgood, curator of zoology of the museum will head the expedition which expects to bring back many new specimens of animal life. The botanical expedition will be under the direction of Mr. J. Francis MacBride, assistant botanist of the museum. The region the expedition will cover is almost

unknown as far as its plant life is concerned and valuable data will be secured by the expedition.

The archeological expedition under the direction of Dr. J. A. Mason, will endeavor to solve some of the interrelations of the ancient civilizations of the Americas. It will also attempt to establish proof of a connecting link between the ancient Maya and the Inca of Peru. The exploration of Colombia is expected to yield many interesting stone statuettes, clay images and gold ornaments of the ancient civilization that inhabited that country. The Department of Archeology also plans to penetrate the Colorado desert next summer and to work among the Eastern Apache and Navaho Indians.

The expedition headed by Dr. Fay-Cooper Cole will leave in June for the Malay Peninsula to study the origin and migration of the Malay and Negrite races. He will attempt to penetrate into the interior of Borneo by following up one of the rivers that empty into the Java Sea. The expedition will be in the field for an estimated period of two years and for the most part will be in contact with pygmies and the least advanced types of primitive Malays.

Dr. B. Laufer, curator of the department of anthropology, is planning a trip to China to study the aboriginal tribes of the island of Hai-nan. He will also make an archeological survey of the Province of Fu-kien and Manchuria in order to enlarge the Chinese collections of the museum.

THE AMERICAN ENGINEERING COUNCIL

THE American Engineering Council of the Federated American Engineering Societies held its first annual meeting at the Cosmos Club, Washington, on January 5 and 6, Dean Mortimer E. Cooley of the University of Michigan, president of the council, presiding. Officers were chosen, the work of the past year reviewed and discussed, action taken on important matters of public and technical service, new financial arrangements put into effect, committees named, new policies sanctioned and old ones reshaped, and a definite program outlined for the next twelve months.

A leading event of the meeting was a dinner in honor of Mr. Herbert Hoover, who, addressing the members of the council and their guests at the University Club, praised the work of the committee on elimination of waste in industry as a great and lasting public service, pointed the way for new engineering effort in the public interest, and expressed renewed devotion to the ideals of the council. Resolutions of appreciation of the service of the new Secretary of Commerce were presented to Mr. Hoover.

On January 1, 1921, the membership of the society was composed of six national and fourteen state and local societies, a total of twenty. On December 31, 1921, there were eight national and twenty state and local societies, a gain of eight member societies representing 1,414 member engineers.

The balloting for officers resulted in the re-election as vice-presidents of Dexter S. Kimball, dean of the College of Engineering, Cornell University, and J. Parke Channing of New York. W. W. Varney of New York was again chosen treasurer. L. W. Wallace was re-elected executive secretary.

The executive board of the council for 1922 is made up as follows: H. E. Howe, Washington, American Institute of Chemical Engineers; Professor C. F. Scott of Yale, L. B. Stillwell and Calvert Townley of New York, J. H. Finney of Washington, William McClellan of Philadelphia, and L. F. Morehouse of New York, representing the American Institute of Electric Engineers; J. Parke Channing and A. S. Dwight of New York, Charles H. McDowell of Chicago and Philip N. Moore of St. Louis, the American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers; L. P. Alford of New York, E. S. Carman of Cleveland, Dean D. S. Kimball of Cornell, Professor A. M. Greene of Troy, Dean P. F. Walker of Kansas, W. S. Lee of New York, Dean M. E. Cooley of Michigan, American Society of Mechanical Engineers; Professor J. W. Roe of New York, Society of Industrial Engineers; Morris L. Cooke, Philadelphia, Taylor Society; W. E. Rolfe, Associated Engineering Societies of St. Louis; W. W. Varney, Baltimore Engineers' Club.

Regional directors chosen for 1922 are: